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Agenda item 20 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Greece and Turkey: draft resolution

Emergency response to disasters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council,[1]

Deeply regretting the great number of casualties and the unprecedented devastation caused by one of the most powerful earthquakes of the century, which struck the north-west region of Turkey on 17 August 1999,

Equally expressing its sorrow for the loss of lives and devastation caused by the earthquake on 7 September 1999, in the north of Athens, Greece,

Noting with appreciation the prompt response of Governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals throughout the world in providing emergency relief assistance to the victims of the earthquake in Turkey,

Expressing likewise its satisfaction for the timely assistance provided by Governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals throughout the world, to the search and rescue and relief efforts undertaken by Greece, in the aftermath of the 7 September earthquake,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General as regards the urgent steps he has taken to mobilize humanitarian assistance and to coordinate activities of agencies of the United Nations system in the field, for purposeful and unified assistance by the international community,

[1] See A/54/3, chap. VI, para. 5.

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Deeply concerned at the fact that natural disasters in every corner of the globe continue to claim high numbers of casualties and cause immense material damage, and that the frequency and magnitude of these catastrophes lay an ever-increasing material and moral burden on nations,

Reiterating the importance of mounting prompt and effective rescue operations in the aftermath of such deadly calamities in the future, as evidenced by the exemplary response of the international community to the earthquakes in Turkey and Greece,

1. *Expresses its solidarity* with the Governments and peoples of Greece and Turkey, as they cope with the consequences of the disaster;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States of the international community, international and non-governmental organizations and individuals that are providing emergency relief to the affected areas;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the decision taken by the Governments of Greece and Turkey to establish a joint Standby Disaster Response Unit comprising contingents drawn from governmental and non-governmental agencies of both countries, to reinforce and expand existing standby arrangements of the United Nations system, with no financial implications to the programme budget of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to formulate the modalities for the utilization of the Standby Disaster Response Unit by the relevant agencies of the United Nations system;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.